
Core Values:

The following are certain common, nonnegotiable values that unify our efforts:

We believe in **God the Father**, Creator of everything, Who loved the world He created and sent His only Son to be our Savior. (Genesis 1:1; John 3:16)

We believe **God the Son is Jesus** of Nazareth, the Savior sent by God, Israel's Messiah, born of a virgin, fully man and fully God. (Mat 1:18; Philippians 2:6; Hebrews 4:15; Romans 8:3)

We believe **God the Holy Spirit**, the Comforter, quickens us from death to life, indwells all those who receive Jesus Christ by faith as Lord and Savior and continuously conforms believers to the image of Jesus Christ. (John 14:17, 14:20, 14:26; John 16: 14; Romans 8:26; II Corinthians 3:18)

The will of God is our highest goal in every aspect of life (Luke 6:46-49). We must know the Word of God, understand it, be able to articulate it, and be ready to defend the faith at all times. (I Peter 3:15)

An atmosphere of grace must pervade our life together. While we expect the highest and best of one another, we accept one another as forgiven and beloved of God. (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 12:9-18).

We are a family - we need each other and rejoice in the gift of supportive, accountable, faithful, prayerful relationships (Mark 3:31-35; I Corinthians 12:12-27)

Authenticity of life - we all seek to live more like Christ, to be persons of integrity while seeking to grow in Christ. (Matt. 6:33-34; 7:18-21; Ephesians 4:25-26; James 1:22-25, 5:12; Hebrews 12:1-2; Philippians 1:6)

Growth is expected - anointed, scripturally sound, expository teaching, God-honoring worship, supportive relationships, purposeful discipling, daily obedience, wise counsel, prayer, and study are the ingredients we cherish as catalysts for personal and corporate growth in Christ. (Col. 1:28; Matt. 5:48; Romans 12:1-2)

Conversion - apart from Christ, people are lost. As we reach out and share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, we expect to see a steady stream of new persons becoming believers and joining our family. (John 3:1-6; Luke 15; Matt. 28:18-20)

Scripture - We encourage all students, faculty, and staff to be prayerful students of Scripture, for it is the infallible Word of God written. (Matt. 5:17-20; II Timothy 3:14-17; Psalm 119:9-11, Hebrews 4:12)

Prayerful dependence on God - life with Christ can only be lived in the power of the Holy Spirit, whose fullness we seek daily. Prayer, both individual and corporate, must undergird all our life. Prayer focuses us upon the will of God, joins us to the heart of God, and releases through us the miracle-working power of God. (Phil. 2:13, 4:13; Matt 7:7-11; Luke 11:1-13; Luke 6:12)

Gifts for ministry - every believer has been given a gift for ministry. The Church, the body of Christ, functions best when each member discovers, develops, and deploys his own gifts in ministry, and we seek to help all members find their place to serve. (I Cor. 12-14; Eph. 4)

Leadership in the university shall be entrusted only to those with leadership gifts who exhibit consistent spiritual maturity, wisdom, godliness, and a willingness to sacrifice for the sake of Christ. (Acts 6:2-5; Nehemiah 1:2; I Timothy 3, Titus 1:6-9)

Involvement - our university must be actively involved in the culture, seeking to bring the mind of Christ to the issues and challenges of the day. (I Cor. 9:19-23; Acts 19:8)

Attitudes of joy in Christ, gratitude to God, trust, sacrifice, and an ongoing expectancy must characterize our life on and off campus if we are to fulfill God's purposes for us. (James 1:1-8; Luke 1:37; Psalm 100; I Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Giving sacrificially of our money and time to the purposes of Christ, as an expression of our faith, is essential to our maturity. (II Cor. 9:19-23; Acts 19:8m Malachi 3:10)

Scriptural Advice and Encouragement for Establishing and Growing a True Church:

Jude 1:3-4: "I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. For certain men long ago, have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord."

1 Timothy 3:14-15: I am writing you these instruction so that ... you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth."

1 Timothy 3:2-10: "Now the overseer [episkopoi, presbuteroi] must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect... He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere... They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them; let them serve as deacons."

2 Timothy 3: 16-17: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Ephesians 4: 2-5: "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to one hope when you were called - one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is overall and through all and in all." [Cf. BCP 1979, Service of Baptism, p. 299: There is one Body and one Spirit, There is one hope in God's call to use; One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism; One God and Father of all.]"

Ephesians 4: 7, 11-16: "But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it... gifts to men"... It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

Acts 20:28-31: "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the Church of God which he bought with his own blood. I know that even after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and

will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard!"

Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." [KJV]

Romans 5:18-21: "Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed... Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised."

Romans 5:2-5: "And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."